

# Children of the Suburb Archives Exhibition



Children in Willifield Way pre WW1

A new arrangement of photographs from the Hampstead Suburb Archives entitled 'Children of the Suburb' was on display in the Exhibition Tent at the Proms at St Jude's from June 20-28 and on Central Square at the Residents' Association Fun Day on June 28. The images were selected by the Acting Archivist, Mrs Micky Watkins from a large collection kept in the Archives, to show what a large part children, and provision for them, have played in the development of the Suburb.

Micky's favourite photo in the Exhibition shows an early Pageant, which makes us realise that our present spirit of community goes right back to the early days of the Suburb.

The pictures show children from the inception of the Suburb to the present day at several local schools, including Henrietta Barnett School, Annemount, the Garden Suburb Schools, Kerem School and the Brookland Schools, as well as children in dramas and in pageants held at the Open Air Theatre in Little Wood. The picture shown above is of children

using Willifield Way in an era before cars occupied our roads.

Children have danced round a Maypole on Willifield Green in the past and most recently in the Suburb Centenary Year. This open space was a key hub of the Suburb before World War II, since the Club House was built on its edge. The Club House was the centre of many local groups and activities but was destroyed by bombing in WWII. The Green was also the site of a demonstration in the early 1910s to get the Garden Suburb Schools finally built and they were opened in 1913.

This was just one year after the first six small children began to attend the 'Institute Kindergarten and High School', which grew out of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and was destined to become Henrietta Barnett School some years later. We now know HBS as a famous secondary school for girls, but for many years it also had a kindergarten and junior school which took boys as well. However, the original conception by Dame Henrietta herself was for a girls' school, as there were so many

good schools for boys in the area. This is now what we have.

It is hoped that there will be another opportunity to see the same exhibition in St Jude-on-the-Hill on the weekend of September 19-20 as part of the Open House London Weekend, when the Church will be open for visitors. St Jude's, founded by Dame Henrietta in 1907, is itself well known for the paintings and murals by Walter Starmer on its walls, depicting the horrors of the First World War, about which the Vicar, Reverend Alan Walker, has recently published a book entitled 'Walter P Starmer: Artist 1877-1961'.

The exhibition was organised by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archives Trust. Website: [www.suburbarchives.com](http://www.suburbarchives.com). Contact 8455 8813 or 8455 2877. Email [suburbarchives@gmail.com](mailto:suburbarchives@gmail.com).

## ARCHIVES TRUST BOOKLIST

Hampstead Garden Suburb – Planning for Conservation, by The New HGS Trust Limited £3

Hampstead Garden Suburb – The Care and Appreciation of its Architectural Heritage, by HGS Design Study Group, 1977 £20

Hampstead Garden Suburb – A Conservation Study, by Shankland Cox & Associates £20

Henrietta Barnett – Social Worker and Community Planner, by Micky Watkins £14.95

Henrietta Barnett in Whitechapel – Her First 50 Years, by Micky Watkins £5

Henrietta's Dream – A Chronicle of the Hampstead Garden Suburb - Varieties & Virtues, by Kathleen M Slack £5

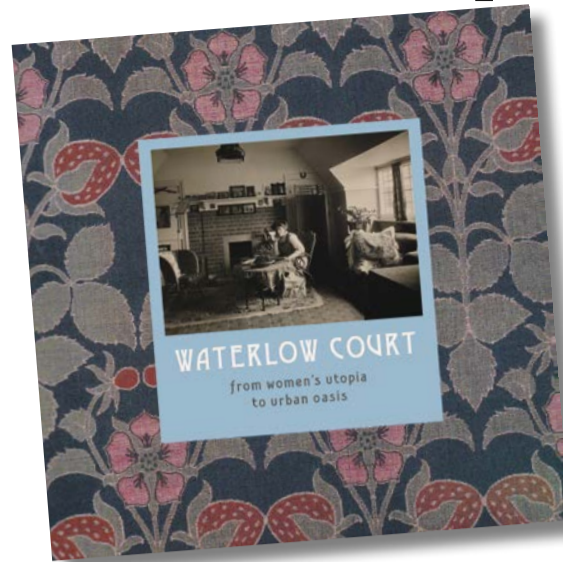
The Story of Hampstead Garden Suburb 1907-1928, by Dame Henrietta Barnett DBE (Foreword by Martin Bell) £9.95

Handlist of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archive, Edited by Henry S Cobb & Ann Saunders £5

Henrietta Barnett & Her First Rate High School – A History of the Henrietta Barnett School, by Jonquil Griffiths £9.95

Henrietta Barnett in photos with a text for young people, by Micky Watkins £3

# Waterlow Court: from women's utopia to urban oasis



Available at Joseph's Bookshop and the Trust Office.

This very elegant brochure written and edited by Ann Reeder, with Tim Daniel's modern photographs has been put together in an enchanting form.

The carefully researched material including archival photographs, have been designed in a most satisfactory juxtaposition with the current images and present day descriptions. It is a very welcome addition to the several publications that have given Waterlow Court recognition of its original purpose as a social construct and its present calm and still open green 'oasis'.

Yet, as Ann Reeder points out, the Court remains a part of the urban fabric at the edge of Hampstead Heath on a site identified in the very first sketches of the Garden Suburb that Dame Henrietta Barnett commissioned from Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker. There are drawings by Baillie Scott of his designs of Waterlow Court dated 1904 and countersigned by Raymond Unwin which show the form and appearance of the cloistered 'improved industrial dwellings' that were completed as he drew them in 1909<sup>2</sup> just 5 years later.

The existing structure – now over 105 years old – retains and expresses most of the social coherence required by Henrietta Barnett's brief for a discreet settlement of self contained dwellings for single professional ladies even though the Communal Dining Room, its kitchen, staff

accommodation and a Common Room have all been altered as self contained dwellings. It nevertheless remains a cloistered court envisaged and realised by Baillie Scott, one of the first of the 'Arts and Crafts' modernist Architects.

Baillie Scott's awareness of the whole building is shown by his attention to the smallest detail from the signed ironmongery particular for each floor level, to the fire place designs and elaborations for each of the differing sizes and orientation of dwellings in their location within the Court.

It is easy to see from this splendid document the Grade 2 listing of the Court and something to applaud and safeguard. However, in several of its special areas the 'need to meet current regulations and standards' and the demands of new residents the Court's listing is getting to be like the beached Italian Liner of recent notoriety.



TIM DANIEL

This brochure makes a visual and literary unequivocal case for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and the Planning Authority to be vigilant and active in the conservation of this unique and total architectural gem.

What is particularly attractive in the brochure is the coherent layout and design throughout its 46 pages. The historic and contemporary illustrations appear on every page of this delightful record of the 'urban oasis'. It is one of many that the Hampstead Garden Suburb hides behind landscape spaces and residential groupings throughout its 300 plus acres.

ARNOLD LINDEN  
ARCHITECT AND RESIDENT

<sup>1</sup>Hampstead Garden Suburb: A Conservation Study. Shankland Cox Associates 1971.

<sup>2</sup>Central gable sign in the Court below the bell tower.

Suburb News has been told that Waterlow Court is participating for the first time in 'Open House London' over the third weekend of September this year; a rare opportunity to look round this little gem on our Suburb. Barnet is one of the less than a handful of London Boroughs who do not see enough worth in this now international initiative and refuse any funding. Fortunately half a dozen more enlightened local organisations, including our RA, the Trust and the Phoenix Cinema, put some money in to ensure that people from Barnet, London, the rest of the country and abroad have the opportunity to enjoy some of Barnet's finest and most interesting buildings.



Jonathan Seres inspects Children of the Suburb Exhibition.

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## HGS Trust AGM (continued from page 1)

of the Suburb using the tools at its disposal. Trustees also have to ensure the Trust remains solvent and has the resources necessary to do its job.

We need trustees who will ensure the Trust continues to be properly resourced and not just look to reduce its income and hamper its effectiveness. The management charge has remained in its target range for the last seven years and remains cheaper than my TV licence or daily newspaper; I would say that is good value for money.

The Trust has the responsibility of maintaining an important example of twentieth century suburban design, and is also our best protector against inappropriate development. In order to do this effectively the Trust must not only be able to initiate legal action when necessary, but also to respond to action taken against it, and to get any external advice it needs to decide on legal or other matters.

We need trustees who are prepared to use the law to defend the Suburb when needed. If

owners and developers think that the Trust lacks the will or resources to do so, they will be quick to exploit the weakness. It is up to us to show by our votes that we are prepared to support those who will protect us.

I think trustees should also encourage the continuation and development of the new policy of communication and consultation with residents.

So if you are a member and we have a disputed election, please use your vote for a candidate who, by supporting the objectives of the Trust, will put the Suburb first.

Finally it is very important for me to say that the above represents my personal views and not those of anyone else or any group.

TERRY BROOKS

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